(c) The Government of India have formulated a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power based on the consensus reached in the Chief Ministers' Conferences held on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996. The Action Plan has been circulated to all the State Governments for its implementation in a time bound manner. The Action Plan inter-alia provides for delegation of more powers to in State agencies, autonomy to the State Electricity Boards, improvement in management practices of State Electricity Boards, provision of higher alocations for public sector projects, emphasis on renovation and modernisation, improvement in plant load factor, private sector participation in distribution, encouragement of co-generation/captive power plants, development of mega power projects at mine pit heads, both in public and private sector, with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions/States. The Ninth Plan which is under finalisation also proposes substantial investment in generation, transmission and distribution of power.

Hydel Power Policy

2112. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will tht Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Samghamoorthy Committee has given its recommendations for formulating a comprehensive policy on hydel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of action taken thereon; and

(d) the present status of new Hydel Power Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of Sambamurti Committee are:

(i) The Hydro potential which is concentrated in a few regions should be ressessed and txploited.

(ii) Public Sector should primarily undertake large and multi-purpose projects and private sector should concentrate on smaller projects.

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding route should be adopted in the case of complex hydro projects.

(iv) International Competitive bidding route should be adopted in the case of smaller and less complex projects and based on unit power/energy cost.

(v) Joint Ventures of Public Sector and Private Sector should be encouraged.

(vi) Additional incentives for hydro projects should be given so that return on hydro is made comparable to thermal projects.

(vii) Peaking power should be allowed additional returns.

(viii) Special emphasis should be given to hydro potential in North East.

(ix) A Hydro Development Fund should be created to find resources for public sector projects.

(c) and (d). Based on the recommendations made by the Committee, a National policy on hydro power development will be evolved by the Central Government which inter-alia would include development of mega hydro projects, both in the public sector and the private secto, at locations with substantial hydro potential.

Amendment of Indian Electricity Act

2113. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Indian Electricity Act to facilitate the private investment in power transmission/distribution etc;

(b) if so, the other details of amendments proposed to be made.

(c) whether the State Governments are proposed to be consulted before introducing this legislation:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the legislation is likely to be introduced during the Monsoon Session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has introduced the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 in Parliament on 13th March, 1997. The Bill will provide an enabling frame work for private sector participation in transmission projects. The proposed amendments would facilitate the entry of private sector in the field of transmission as transmission licencees. The Bill is under the consideration of the Standing Committee on Energy.

(c) and (d) Electricity being a concurrent subject, the Parliament can enact such legislation, Moreover, the Chief Ministers and Ministers of Power of the State Governments met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 16.10.1996 and 3.12.1996 and adopted Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNAPP). In the meeting it was resolved that the Government of India will carry out necessary amendments in relevant Acts/Rules to allow private participation in transmission.

(e) As stated in reply to part (a) the Bill has already been introduced during the Budget Session of the Parliament and is under consideration of Standing Committee on Energy.

Kota Thermal Power Station

2114. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from Government of Rajasthan has been received with regard to Kota Thermal Power Station-Stage IV;

(b) if so, whether the techno-economic clearance has been accorded for this project by the CRA, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government of India are in favour of providing any financial assistance through internal resources or external agencies during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b). A proposal to set up Kota Thermal Power Station Stage IV (210 MW) was received in CEA in July, 1994 for techno-economic clearance. As the essential inputs had not been tied up the proposal was returned by CEA on 26-2-1996.

(c) The projects of State Electricity Boards are normally funded by them or by the concerned State Governments. However, the proposals are recommended for seeking external assistance, provided they fulfil the eligibility criteria. Rajasthan Government has not asked for internal or external finance assistance for the project.

Joint ventures by NTPC and its Subsidiaries

2115. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given authority to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to form joint ventures and subsidiaries for setting up projects at the State Level;